motion, another person who was not a tenderer, filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court appointed a Committee of experts which tested the stocks and submitted their report. A quantity of 1723.80 Metric Tonnes out of 6023.80 Metric Tonnes sub-standard rice which was tested/examined by expert Committee was found not suitable for upgradation due to off flavour and discolouration in grain in the following godowns:—

Food Storage Depot, Cossipore.	502.4 Metric Tonnes
Food Storage Depot, Shalimar.	423.2 Metric Tonnes
Food Storage Depot, Gopalpur.	91.2 Metric Tonnes
Food Storage Depot, Sitarampur.	273.6 Metric Tonnes
Central Ware housing Corporation, Shyam Nagar.	433.4 Metric Tonnes
TOTAL	1723.8 Metric Tonnes

The estimated value of above quantity is Rs. 1,19,28,388 calculated at existing central issue price of rice. These stocks were rendered sub-standard due ot progressive deterioration during long storage in depots. Mode of disposal of these stocks is to be decided on receipt of final orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court as the matter is sub-judice.

Missing FCI truck loads of rice

521. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that several truck loads of rice despatched from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in Jalandhar and Ludhiana districts are missing; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that consignments sent to the valley in early 1990 from the above mentioned districts had not been acknowledged by the Consignee; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 1400 metric tonnes rice despatched this year in trucks from Ludhiana district had ended up in the Delhi market; if so, the details of action taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) what steps Government have taken so that the above mentioned racket may not happen again in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delicensing of sugar industry

522. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delicense the sugar industry in the country;

(b) if so, what is its likely overall impact on the cooperative sector and the new units coming in this sector; and

(c) whether delicensing of sugar industry is likely to affect the prices of sugar and production of sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The option for delicensing the sugar industry in the country is presently under consideration of the Government, keeping in view the views of Cooperative Sector, Public Sector and Private Sector and also its impact on production prices etc.

मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों की भण्डारण क्षमता

523. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों की भण्डारण क्षमता कितनी थी ;

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में अस्थाई गोदामों की क्षमता बढ़ा दी गई है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) वर्ष 1992–93 और 1993–94 के दौरान इन गोदामों में कितनी मात्रा में खाद्यान्न नष्ट हुए ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास उपलब्ध कुल खाद्यान्न भण्डारण क्षमता [ढकी हुई/कवर और प्लिथ (कैप)] निम्नानुसार थी :—

वर्ष (31/3)	कुल भण्डारण क्षमता (लाख मीटरी टन में)
1991–92 . .	11.23
1992–93 . .	10.53
1993–94 . .	14.11

(ख) और (ग) भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास मध्य प्रदेश में अस्थायी स्वरूप की कोई भण्डारण क्षमता नहीं है । तथापि, 31–3–1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास कवर और प्लिथ (कैप) क्षमता 0.02 लाख मीटरी टन थी जो 30–9–1994 की स्थिति के अनुसार बढ़कर 1.50 लाख मीटरी टन हो गई थी ।

(घ) मध्य प्रदेश में 1992–93 और 1993–94 के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदाम में भण्डारण के दौरान क्षतिग्रस्त घोषित किए गए खाद्यान्नों की मात्रा निम्नानुसार थी :—

वर्ष	मात्रा (मीटरी टन)
1992–93 . .	335
1993–94 . .	502

Literacy Rate in Bihar

524. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of literacy in the country as per 1991 census, details thereof Statewise;

(b) what is the percentage of literacy for males and females;

(c) whether it is a fact that Bihar is the lowest literate State, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to increase the literacy rate in Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The literacy rate in the country according to 1991 census was 52.21 percent. A statement showing state-wise literacy rates both for males and females is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The literacy rate in Bihar according to 1991 census was 38.48 percent which is the lowest in the country. Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-formal Education for school drop-outs and adult education programmes under the National Literacy Mission constitute the three-pronged strategy to reduce illiteracy. In Bihar 16 districts have been covered onder the Total Literacy Campaigns. In addition, the Bihar Education Project, which aims at bringing about a qualitative improvement in the education system is being implemented since 1991-92. The Bihar Education Project has a proposed out-lay of Rs. 360 crores to be funded jointly by UNICEF, Government of India and Government of Bihar in the ratio of 3:2:1. It proposes o cover 150 blocks spread over 20 districts till 1995-96. Uuder the scheme of Operation Black Board all